

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for initiating internet telephone service from a web page containing a telephone number,
5 comprising:
 accessing said web page using a browser;
 downloading a web page document associated with said web page;
 parsing said web page document for detecting
10 a character string representing a telephone number;
 modifying said character string in said web page document into a link to said internet telephone service;
15 providing said web page document including said modified character string to said browser; and
 displaying said web page on said browser including said modified character string.
- 20 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 selecting said modified character string indicative of said telephone number;
 activating said link to said internet telephone service;
25 passing said telephone number to said internet telephone service;
 initiating a telephone call to said telephone number; and
 establishing two-way communications between a
30 caller selecting said character string and a

destination audio device designated by said
telephone number.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said
initiating a telephone call to said telephone number
5 comprises:

launching a server side script at said
internet telephone service for initiating said
telephone call.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said act of
10 launching a server side script at said internet
telephone service comprises:

determining if said caller has logged into
said telephone service;

if said caller has not logged in, requesting
15 said caller to log into said telephone service;
and

placing a telephone call to said telephone
number through said internet telephone service.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said browser
20 is Microsoft Internet Explorer and said method further
comprises:

providing a Browser Helper Object including
instructions for parsing said web page and
modifying said character string indicative of said
25 telephone number; and

installing said Browser Helper Object,
thereby activating said Browser Helper Object
whenever said browser is activated.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of parsing said web page for detecting a character string indicative of a telephone number comprises:

5 determining if said character string includes alphanumeric characters matching one or more predetermined telephone number formats; and

if said character string matches a first one of said predetermined telephone number format, designating said character string as a telephone
10 number.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said one or more predetermined telephone number formats include at least one of the following: (###)###-####, (###) ###-####, ###.###.###, ###/###/###, ###/###-####, ###-###-####, ###-###-####), #-###-###-####, +# (###) ###-####, +# (###)###-####, +# ### ### ###, +#-### ###
15 ####, +#-### ###-####, +#-###-###-####, ### ### ###, ### ###.###, and ### ###-####, where # represents a digit between 0 and 9 or a character between A and Z.

20 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said one or more predetermined telephone number formats further include #####, where the first three characters are numeric digit between 0 and 9.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein said act of
25 parsing said web page further comprises:

determining if said character string is a hypertext link; and

if said character string is a hypertext link, refraining from designating said character string
30 as a telephone number even if said character

string matches a first one of said predetermined telephone number format.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said web page document is written in hypertext markup language (HTML) and said determining if said character string is a hypertext link comprises:

determining if said character string is preceded by the character A or a.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of modifying said character string in said web page into a link to said internet telephone service comprises:

providing a first string including link information to said internet telephone service;

appending to said first string a first parameter containing said telephone number;

appending to said first parameter a second parameter containing said telephone number;

concatenating said first string, said first parameter and said second parameter to form said modified character string; and

providing said modified character string to said browser for display.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said appending to said first string a first parameter containing said telephone number comprises:

appending an international dialing access code to the beginning of said telephone number for forming said first parameter; and

appending said first parameter to said first string.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein said act of modifying said character string in said web page into a link to said internet telephone service comprises:

5 providing a first string including link
information to said internet telephone service;
 appending to said first string a first
parameter containing said telephone number;
 providing a second string including window
properties information for displaying a window of
10 said internet service provider;
 appending to said second string a second
parameter containing said telephone number;
 providing a third string including character
formatting information; and
15 concatenating said first string, said second
string and said third string to form said modified
character string; and
 providing said modified character string to
said browser for display.

20 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 providing a caller-selectable interface for
selectively enabling or disabling said acts of
parsing said web page document and modifying said
character string in said web page document.

25 15. A method for initiating internet telephone
service from a web page containing a telephone number,
comprising:

 accessing said web page using a browser;
 downloading a web page document associated
30 with said web page;

parsing said web page document for detecting
a character string representing a telephone
number;

5 modifying said character string in said web
page document into a link to said internet
telephone service;

providing said web page document including
said modified character string to said browser;

10 displaying said web page on said browser
including said modified character string;

selecting said modified character string
indicative of said telephone number;

activating said link to said internet
telephone service;

15 passing said telephone number to said
internet telephone service;

initiating a telephone call to said telephone
number; and

20 establishing two-way communications between a
caller selecting said character string and a
destination audio device designated by said
telephone number.

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